
The Duke Community Standard



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Duke University is a community of scholars and learners, committed to the principles of honesty, trustworthiness, fairness, and respect for others. Students share with faculty and staff the responsibility for promoting a climate of integrity. As citizens of this community, students are expected to adhere to these fundamental values at all times, in both their academic and non-academic endeavors.

The Pledge

Students affirm their commitment to uphold the values of the Duke University community by signing a pledge that states:

1. I will not lie, cheat, or steal in my academic endeavors, nor will I accept the actions of those who do.
2. I will conduct myself responsibly and honorably in all my activities as a Duke student.

The Reaffirmation

Upon completion of each academic assignment, students will be expected to reaffirm the above commitment by signing this statement: "I have adhered to the Duke Community Standard in completing this assignment." [Student Signature]

Students' Obligation to Report Potential Cases of Academic Dishonesty

Under the Duke Community Standard, students affirm their commitment not to lie, cheat, or steal in academic endeavors, *nor accept the actions of those who do*.

Thus, a student who has direct knowledge of a potential case of academic dishonesty is required to:

- provide a signed written statement of the observed behavior to the appropriate faculty member and/or to the Dean of Students Office within one week of the alleged occurrence; and
- provide the name or identity of the person(s) alleged to have committed the violation(s).

The observing student is encouraged first to confront the person(s) alleged to have committed the violation(s) for at least two reasons: 1) to correct any misassumption about alleged act(s), and 2) to let the accused student(s) know that the situation is being reported so that accused student(s) might choose to self-report as well. (Accepting responsibility to the faculty member and/or the Dean of Students Office prior to the reporting of an alleged offense will be considered as a positive factor in the determination of an appropriate sanction.)

Students who knowingly do not fulfill this obligation are themselves subject to sanctions.

Background

In 1999-2000, Duke participated in a national survey through the Center for Academic Integrity. Through responses from undergraduate students, as well as from faculty and staff, the survey assessed the climate of academic integrity at Duke in comparative context with other institutions. As a result of the findings, the provost formed the Academic Integrity Council (AIC) in 2001 by appointing representatives from across the community whose charge was and remains to review academic integrity policies and practices and make recommendations to improve the climate of integrity on campus.

An early goal of the AIC was to review the existing Honor Code, which had been in effect for the undergraduate community since 1993. The AIC determined that the Honor Code needed revision to make it shorter while embracing all aspects of a student's life at Duke. A major element of the revision was the inclusion of the fundamental values that must inform the definition of a community of honor.

This Duke Community Standard was proposed to the faculty councils of Trinity College of Arts and Sciences and the Pratt School of Engineering, as well as to the Duke Student Government. It was approved for the undergraduate community and implemented in the fall of 2003. The Standard has since been adopted by each graduate and professional school of the university and, thus, represents the values we uphold as an institution.



A Statement of Principles

The Duke Community Standard expresses a standard for behavior – a set of expectations of students who claim membership in Duke’s learning community. All incoming undergraduates, upon admittance to Duke, are required to sign a pledge to adhere to these values and to conduct themselves in accordance with these values throughout their undergraduate careers.

The Duke Community Standard, thus, is a statement of principles. The specific policies, or rules and regulations of the university, define the conduct for which students can be held accountable.